# REFLECTIONS

Upon the

# Late Famous

# PETITION,

AND THE

# Well Timing of it. &c.

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*Gallicus hæc tam culta Novalia Miles habebit?*
*Barbarus has ſegetes? Heu! quo Diſcordia Cives*
*Perducit Miſeros——*

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# RHETORICIANS

## Exit Omnes.

## PETITION.

### Well Timing of it.

# REFLECTIONS

Upon the Late

## Famous Petition, &c.

THere is all the reaſon in the World to be aſſured, that the Grand and moſt Capital Enemies of this Kingdom are now at work; and that they are labouring to Undermine and Subvert all the Pillars that Support the Peace and Wellfare of the Nation. Theſe Men cannot endure to behold ſuch Perſons in Authority, as they well know be Obſtructors of their Deſigns. How theſe Men laboured formerly Tooth and Nail, by their Diligent and Illegal Canvaſſing at the Elections for Magiſtrates of this City, to favour the Arbitrary Courſes of the Court at that time, and what the Fatal Effects of their Choices were, is ſtill too Freſh in Memory to be forgot. Nothing would ſerve their Turns but Lord Mayors, that contrary to the Rules and Maxims of Truth and Honeſty,

would yield a Slaviſh Compliance to the Violences and Uſurpations of the two Preceding Kings upon their Religion and Liberties. Nothing would pleaſe 'em, but Sheriffs, to pick and cull out Jury-men by their Partial Verdicts, to Authorize the Murders of Good Men, by Perjury and Subornation: And All this, to Promote the Intreagues, and Proſper the Leud Contrivances of thoſe that ſought the Deſtruction of their Laws, their Liberties and Religion.

Now that the ſame Deſigns are ſtill carried on, is plainly evident from hence, that the Dormant Plotters of the Nations Ruin, ſtill make choice of the ſame Tools and Inſtruments which they made uſe of before: Some that ſtand Recorded ſtill in ſundry Tryals, for Offering up thoſe Sacrifices to Arbitrary Power, that were ſo Barbarouſly *innuendo'd* to the Axe or Gibbet: Others that ſo Fawningly and Ignominiouſly contributed to the Surrender of the Ancient Rights and Franchiſes of the City, with no leſs Treachery to their Poſterity, than Infidelity to their Preſent Truſt. Such a Spirit of *Jacobitiſm*, not to be exorcized by all the Force of Common Senſe and Reaſon, Demoniacks theſe People even to

Fury

Fury and Frenzy; faſcinated withall by the plauſible Inſinuations of thoſe *Non-reſiſtance* and *Paſſive Obedience Gentlemen*, that act againſt the very *Doctrines* which they ſo loudly Trumpet forth themſelves; as if it were Unlawful to reſiſt King *James*, but Lawful to Plot and Conſpire againſt King *William*. And yet what they can ſee in their Abdicated King *James* that ſhould draw their Affection and Obedience toward Him, with ſuch a Magnetick Violence, is that which ſurpaſſes the Underſtanding of all Intelligent Men. So that if Juſtice and Moderation in Rule, if Courage in the Field, and Tenderneſs toward the People, if Prudence in Conduct, and a ſedulous Care of the Publick Welfare, all which are eminently conſpicuous in King *William*, be the Characters that denote a Good Prince, there is nothing of this, as their own Experience has found, that is to be diſcern'd in King *James*, but all quite the contrary. So that moſt certainly, there never was a more Unlucky Act, either of Ignorance, or Folly, or Madneſs, committed by a Hundred and Eighteen Perſons, pretending to be Rational Creatures, than to expoſe themſelves under their own Hands, for Fools and Knaves to

all

all *Europe*. And that which seems most Ridiculous, is their setting their Chief *Nicodemus* in the *Van*.

For this Design is so laid, as not to be confin'd within the Bounds of *Great Britain*; it extends its intended Influences upon all the present Emergencies of a Fourth part of the World, in such Critical Conjuncture of Affairs, as History can hardly parallel. For *Europe* is now either to break the Fetters which are preparing for Her by an Ambitious Monarch, or else to see her self Loaded with the Chains of Gallick Servitude to Perpetuity. And by an Auspicious Act of Providence, to the Astonishment of History, his Present Majesty of *Great Britain*, united with his Parliament of *England*, is, under God, the Chiefest Comfort of her Doubtful Hopes. The Confederate Princes look upon his Miraculous Restoring of *Great Britain* to her Ancient Liberty, to be a Testimony that Heaven has farther design'd Him to deliver *Germany*, and derive a most probable Omen from his Speedy Triumphs in *Ireland*, that the French will be as unable to withstand him upon the *Rhine*, as they were at the *Boyne*.

While

While All *Europe* remains in this Suſpence, and full of Expectations from *England*, what may we think of thoſe that Toyl and Moyl to Obſtruct a Deſign ſo Glorioufly Tranſcendent, upon the Good Succeſs of which, depends not only the Peace and Wellfare of all *Europe*, but the Eternal Honour and Glory of their own Nation? Can thoſe Short-ſighted Common-Council-Men then, that labour to obſtruct it, take it ill to be accounted *Rapparees*? Or can thoſe *Paſſive Obedience*, and *Non-reſiſtance Gentlemen*, that make it their Buſineſs to impede it, be offended, if they are not look'd upon to be ſo much as Chriſtians, while they take part with the French, in League with Infidels, to ſhare the Spoils of Chriſtendom?

However this is the Godly Proteſtant Deſign a Foot, and the Petitioners are made the Tools and Cullies to drive it on: Unhappy in this, that they who ſpur 'em forward, get all the *Louidores*, while they are forced to drudge for nothing; no, not ſo much as a Treatment at the Tavern. And there is another Misfortune that attends 'em, that it is their Intereſt to be accounted rather Fools and Madmen, than Perſons of Wit and Diſcretion. For ſhould the World be ſo uncharitable, as to believe 'em truly

truly ſenſible of acting for *Lewis* XIV. as they do, under the Pretence of being good Subjects to King *James*, the Scandal would be much more Fatal to their Reputation. And indeed if this Conſideration do not retrieve 'em ſpeedily from their Miſtake, the Conſequence naturally flowing from their Perſeverance will be, that like thoſe who ſet 'em on, they will be concluded Traytors to their Country. The French King was ſure of King *James*; but He being gone, his Hopes are now in the Common-Council of *London*. His Majeſty wants a Supply to anſwer the Expectations of all *Europe*; and *Lewis* XIV. can find no other way to obſtruct their Generous Proceedings, than by an unſeaſonable Petition of the *Common Council* of *London*, and bringing the Petty Brabbles of Ward-Motes before the Parliament, to interrupt the Grand Affairs of Chriſtendom. Certainly theſe Petitioners cannot chuſe but know, if they underſtand any thing, that it is both the Deſign and Intereſt of the French King, to reſtore King *James* to his Abdicated Throne, if he can, as knowing him to be a ſure Card in his Pack. They cannot but apprehend, if they have common Senſe, that *Lewis* XIV. hugs *James* II. and compaſſionates his Misfortunes,

fortunes, not for any Eſteem that he has for his Perſon, but under the Pretence of Aſſiſting the Catholick Religion oppreſſed in *England*, and a Catholick Prince that has Forfeited all his Rights of Sovereignty, to foment and cheriſh Faction and Diviſion in a Country, where he Dreads nothing more than their united Force againſt him. They cannot be ſo Ignorant as not to be aſſur'd, that there can be nothing more to the Advantage of *France*, conſidering the preſent Criſis of her Affairs, than a well contriv'd Confuſion in *England*. Yet theſe are the Men that pretend to be ſuch Minions of the Church of *England*, the Cream of Proteſtantiſm, the only Men of Honeſty and Loyalty: Theſe are the Men that ſuffer themſelves to be led by the Noſes, and made the Tools and Inſtruments in the Hands of Popiſh Proſtitutes, and Mothy Proteſtants, to carry on the Deteſtable Deſigns of thoſe who having once already laid the City in Aſhes, as the Great Obſtruction of their Bleſſed Machinations, would now again inflame it with Combuſtions of another Nature; tending nevertheleſs with an equal Ardency to *Palatinate* Ravage and Depopulation.

Now then as to the little Engine made uſe of to unhinge, or at leaſt retard the united Counſels of the King and Parliament, it is called, *An Humble Petition of the Members of the Common-Council of the City of* London, *thereunto Subſcribing.* Wherein are to be conſidered the Timing of it, The Grounds of the Complaint, the Perſons complained againſt, and the Perſons that complain. As to the Timing of it, the Promoters of this Petition no leſs underſtand than *France* is well aſſured, that if *England* recover her Priſtine Glory, ſhe muſt Fall; and that her *Flower de Luces,* that have ſo long overſhaded *Europe*, muſt give way to King *William's Laurels. France* contends for an Unjuſt Empire, and to wreſt from the Hands of many Sovereign Princes in the quiet Enjoyment of their Ancient Inheritances, a Univerſal Deſpotick Monarchy, to gratifie her Exorbitant and Boundleſs Ambition. And to compaſs this Deſign, He tramples upon all the Laws of God and Man; omitting nothing that Impiety and Contempt of Heaven can infuſe into his Breaſt. On the other ſide King *William*, with a Generoſity far ſurpaſſing that of the Ancient *Hero's*, ſo Famous for Subduing the Tyrants and Deſtructive Monſters of

of thoſe Ages, makes it his ſole Buſineſs to reduce this Monſter of Men to Reaſon, and thereby to reſtore Tranquillity and Freedom to all *Europe*, and he has already done to his own People: An Undertaking altogether Vertuous, altogether God-like. The Parliament applaud His Majeſties Deſign, and unanimouſly concur to furniſh him with Supplies proportionable to ſo Great and ſo Expenſive an Enterprize. But in the midſt of their Important Debates, an Impertinent Petition muſt be clap'd into the Houſe to give a Check to their Conſpicuous Induſtry for the Good of All Chriſtendom, now making her laſt Efforts to reſcue her ſelf from perpetual Bondage. Was this a Time to trouble the Parliament with City Quarrels and Diſputes about Inferior Elections, when the General Wellfare of *Europe* lyes at Stake? So that had it only been the Diſtreſſed Duke of *Savoy*'s ſingle Relief, it had been worth a Hundred of thoſe Petty Controverſies.

But this was not all, for the Promoters of this *Petition* ſeem to be Men that loved to Nick a Buſineſs; and therefore believing there would be a Sudden Receſs of the Parliament, in regard of His Majeſty's ſpeedily

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intended Voyage for *Holland*, they thought it moſt proper to interrupt the Sedulous Conſultations of the Houſe for the King's Supply, when they conceived 'em to be moſt ſeverely pinch'd for Time, and that it behoved the *Commons* to improve every Moment for the King's Buſineſs. For by this means they imagined they ſhould find ſo much Work for the *Parliament*, that they ſhould not be able to compleat the King's Supply before he went into *Holland*; and by that Artifice to fruſtrate, or at leaſt retard the King's intended *Early Preparations*. And this is ſo agreeable to the *Mutinies* and *Interruptions* of the ſame *Perſons*, when conven'd but the laſt Summer to Supply Her Majeſty with Money to reinforce the Navy with Ships and Men againſt the French, then hovering upon our Coaſts, that it may readily be concluded to be a *Contrivance* of the ſame Head-pieces, and for the ſame Treacherous Ends.

King *Charles* the Second brought a Juſtice of the Peace upon his Knees in Council, notwithſtanding the Pleas of his Fathers and his own Loyalty, for committing an Exciſe-man too ſevere perhaps in the Diſcharge of his Duty; and his Reaſon was this, becauſe the

*Gentle-*

*Gentleman* obſtructed the Gathering of his Revenue: But much more Juſtly do theſe Men deſerve the King's Diſpleaſure, that go about to ſtop the very Springs of Speedy and Neceſſary Supply, at ſuch an *Importunate Conjuncture* as this. There is a ſmall Treatiſe lately publiſhed in *French*, under the Title of *The Empire and Emperor Betray'd*, wherein the Author makes it plainly appear, what Tricks of *Legerdemain* the *French King* practiced to retard and diſappoint the *Emperor's Preparations* againſt him. And in the Life of the Duke of *Lorrain*, now lately Printed, it is but too notoriouſly remarkable, how that *Renowned General* loſt the Advantages of a whole Campaigne, in regard his Officers refuſed to give *Crequi* Battel, which he had always declined till that fair Opportunity, becauſe Supplies of Money, and other Neceſſary Proviſions, retarded by Artifices and Tricks of the *French*, were never ſent, as they ought to have been, to the Imperial Army; of which the Duke himſelf made loud Complaints upon his return to *Vienna*. Now certainly the *French King* is ſtill *Lewis* XIV. But in the mean time 'tis a great Honour to the *Subſcribers* of the *Common-Council Petition*, that they

have no Motion, but what they derive from the Wheels of *France*. And indeed were not these things most Obvious to common Sense, and the long Experience of the two late Reigns, our *Subscribing Members* of the *Common-Council* might Object and say, they were not *Born Politicians*: However tho 'tis believed there are very few will Object against their Objection, yet the very Instinct of Self-preservation common to Beasts, would instruct 'em better, than to act for the Common Foe of Mankind, because he happens to be a Self-ended Friend to K. *James*.

What further use they would have made of this Nick of Time, may be readily conjectured, for some believe that they hoped for great Alterations in the City upon their *Subscribed Petition*; and then they would have had the World in a String. They would have had all the Chief Magistrates of this City of their chusing, and then all things would have gone right for K. *James* and K. *Lewis*. For at this time their Interests are not to be separated. K. *Lewis* is at this time endeavoring to relieve *Limerick* in *Ireland* with Arms and Provisions, and therefore it behoves the *Subscribers* to observe his *Motions*, and bustle in time to support his Contrivances in *England*. The Critical Conjuncture requires it; *aut Nunc, aut Nunquam*.

*Nunquam.* Their unneceſſary Cavilling and Wrangling to diſappoint the Supplies that Q. *Mary* demanded when the French were at our Doors, and their Invaſion every Hour expected (and after ſuch a Diſappointment as that of the Cock-pit Match, it was as much as Men could do) was a Nicking Act of Time: And this ſame Sympathizing Brangle of a *Petition* to diſappoint His Majeſty, and conſequently the *Expectations* of All *Europe*, was another Nicking of the true Minute; a ſeaſonable Dragging of Time by the Forelock, with his Sithe to *Mow down* all the *Fair Opportunities* of making the *Nation* both *Happy* and *Glorious.* So that if we conſider the Time, we ſhall find theſe *Subſcribers* ſo punctual to K. *Lewis*, that if they had been his *Clock-makers*, or his *Band* of *Violins*, they could not have obſerved his Meaſures more exactly.

And this Aſſurance, that they have Inſtruments ſo punctual to their Time, is that which makes the *Jacobites* as confident of K. *James*'s *Reſtauration*, as the *Turks*, with an implicit Faith, believe the Return of *Mahomet.* They talk of it one among another with ſo much certainty, as if another *Monk* were marching to *Dover* to receive him. And therefore it was, that a Carrier and two Caſſock'd Miniſters diſcourſing together in the

Kitchin at *Gerards-Hall* but t'other day: *Well Maſter*, ſaid the Carrier--*what--d'ye think we ſhall have K.*James *again?*--*As ſure*, quo the Miniſter, *as thou art a Living Man*--*But when*, quo the Carrier--*Before the end of next Summer, I'le hold my Life on't*- quo the Miniſter. With a great deal more of this Riffraff, which was over-heard by the Cook-Maid, of whom they were not ſo cautious, as perhaps they ought to have been. 'Tis true, that one of theſe Canonical Gentlemen had never taken the Oaths to K.*William* and Q.*Mary*, but the other had, yet he was ſo far from interrupting the Diſcourſe, that he ſeemed extreamly pleaſed with the Tidings.

Now it is impoſſible for theſe Men, unleſs their Rational Souls have forſaken 'em, to be ſo Confident without any Grounds of *Aſſurance*: Or ſuppoſe their Hopes may be Vain, or at leaſt become fruſtrated in the end; yet it is impoſſible for 'em to tickle their Fancies, without ſome Straw or other of a Probability, tho never ſo Airy. Among the reſt therefore, it may be juſtly conjectured, that the Contrivance of the Subſcribers *Petition* was one; a thing well known at that time, to thoſe two Diſcreet Miniſters, and upon which a great part of their Hopes depended, tho they would not impart all their Knowledge to the Carrier. As

As to the Grounds of the Complaint, the first is, *That several Aldermen of the City, so made by virtue of Commissions from the late King* James *under his Great Seal, still act as Aldermen by that Authority, under pretence, that they are still continued by some doubtful Expression in the Act of Parliament for Reversing*, &c.

*That Sir* Thomas Pilkington *was not duly declared Lord Mayor.*

*That Mr.* Robinson *was unduly imposed upon the City for Chamberlain of* London.

*That several Members of the Council are illegally Excluded.*

*That the Lord Mayor and Aldermen have assumed the Execution of the Office of Town-Clerk, vacant for above Three Months, into their own Hands, and appointed several Persons to execute the same, without the Consent of the Common-Council, by whom that Officer is only Eligible.*

*That they themselves have not been suffered to Meet and Consult about the necessary Affairs of the City.*

And lastly, *That they having agreed to make their Address to the Parliament for settling their Grievances, the Mayor refused it, and to prevent their Application, dissolved the Court.*

All

All which Complaints are grounded upon the *Subscribers* Hopes, *That the late Act of Parliament for Reversing the Judgment in the* Quo Warranto, *would have restored the City to its Ancient Rights and Priviledges.*

To these several Allegations, particular Answers have already been printed with Allowance of publick Authority, positively asserting the Subscribers Assertions to be Untrue; the meer Clamours of Calumny and Vexatious Falshood in the Relation of Matter of Fact; the most part already made apparent by the Fair Proof of Persons upon their Oaths. To which Answers, needless to be repeated here, the Reader is refer'd.

However there is this farther to be remarked; that surely the Subscribers had a very mean Opinion of the *Wisdom* of the *House of Commons*, to believe that so Great an Assembly would fall immediately upon the *Lord Mayor* and *Aldermen*, without examining the Verity of the Subscribers *Allegations.* For if they did not believe that, they could not imagine that a *Petition* Stuffed with Untruths, tho never so plausible, could stand the *Test* of *Parliament-Inquisition*. But it seems the *Subscribers* assum'd the same Liberty in Appealing to the Parliament, as they that first launch into Chancery Suits, who take the Liberty to put into their

their Bills, whatever makes for their Advantage, whether True or Falſe. But however ſuch Proceeding may be allowed in Chancery, the Subſcribers could never expect from an Untrue and Litigious *Appeal* to the *Commons* of *England*, any better Succeſs than what they have had.

It remains then to be a Raſh and Inconſiderate piece of Inſolence, to diſturb the *Conſultations* of ſo Great an Aſſembly, buſily imployed in the moſt Important Affairs that perhaps will ever come under their Debate again; ſince the Parliament of *England* is now the *Parliament* of the whole *Proteſtant World*. And therefore ſince the Subſcribers could not expect to be relieved from Grievances, where there was only a *Great Cry* and a *little W*[illegible]; it follows of Courſe, that their *Petition* was only a *Propenſe Contrivance*, to render *Abortive* the *Wiſtful Expectation* of All *Europe*. Had their Grievances been real, they had been unſeaſonable, but as they were only Complaints, without any juſt Grounds, it was an unmannerly Affront, to offer Cavil and Contention to the Supream Reaſon of the Nation. For he that offers Impertinent and Groundleſs Complaints to his Superior, thinks him ſurely either very Weak, or elſe obliged by Preingagement, or elſe that he knows not what to do with his Time;

from

from all which Incivilities toward the *Commons* of *England*, the *Subſcribers* are to acquit themſelves as well as they can. But they knew that an Explanation of the Act would take up time, and that was the *Subſcribers* chief Aim. Tho 'twas a Rude Requeſt, for the Shallower part of the *Common-Council* to deſire an *Explanation* of the *Act* for themſelves, when the *Lord Mayor* and *Court of Aldermen*, and the Wiſer part of their own Members were ſatisfied already, and deſired no ſuch enlightning of their Underſtanding; as if the *Houſe* had nothing to do but to gratifie their want of Wit or Pretence of Scruple. Eſpecially when at their own Meeting, they themſelves could not agree upon putting the Queſtion about the Addreſs to be ma[illegible] nor what words of the Act they would have explained. And that tho ſome of their Number made a *Motion* for ſuch a Queſtion to be put, yet others oppoſed it as Senſeleſs and Ridiculous.

It is alſo farther obſervable, that they who make theſe loud Complaints of the Infringement of their *Ancient Rights and Priviledges*, were many of them the very Men that ſurrender'd them up with ſuch an eaſie Compliance to the Tyranny of the Court at that time, as if they had ſo many Shackles that rather gall'd their Heels. So that in

Them,

Them, it is only to be look'd upon as a Pretence for Diſturbance, to make ſuch a Buſtle for Rights and Priviledges which they contemn'd and ſlighted formerly to that Degree, as to prefer the Barley-Corns of Court-Favour before 'em. How did they formerly quarrel with their *Ancient Rights and Priviledges* in the Elections of *Mayors* and *Sheriffs*? How did they Labour and Toyl, Moyl and Tug to Subvert the Ancient Rights and Priviledges of the City, to further and uphold the Tyrannical and Arbitrary Proceedings of the Court? So that indeed, were it not for the ſake of others, they may be ſaid to be unworthy of the Priviledges from which they pretend to be debar'd; more eſpecially ſince that now they enjoy them again they make ſo ill uſe of 'em; and challenge only the Breach of their Priviledges to divide the Nation, and reſtore the profeſs'd Foe of Engliſh Liberty. Which leads yee to conſider who they are that make the Complaints.

It may be truly ſaid, that for almoſt Twenty Years together, this Nation was wholly govern'd by the French King, under two as Obedient Pupils as his Heart could have deſired; he Prorogu'd and Diſſolv'd our Parliaments; told us when we ſhould make War and Peace with the

Dutch; how we ſhould behave our ſelves at the Negotiation of *Nimeghen*: He adviſed the two late Kings to Rule Deſpotically like himſelf; and to vear up the Foundations of the Laws and Liberties of the Kingdom. And theſe Subſcribers are they that ſeem to be ſo in love with his Government, that they would fain have the ſame again. They have ſuch a fond Affection for Slavery and Popery, that they are mad to ſee any Body go about to hurt ſo dear a Friend to King *James*, as the French King. 'Tis pity, they cry, that a poor Prince, who has been at ſo many Years Expence of Toyl and Mony to enlarge his Territories, ſhould loſe the Benefit of his Treacheries and waſtful Uſurpations upon his Neighbours, by the Oppoſition of *England*; and therefore they'll do what they can to diſſipate the Storm that hangs over his Head. Shall he protect our *Great and Juſt* K. *James*, and we not lend a helping hand to impede K. *William*'s Preparations againſt Him? And if a *Petition* to the *Parliament*, as we are certainly told, will do the Buſineſs, 'tis the leaſt thing we can do. Theſe are the Men that care not what becomes of their Country, ſo K. *James* comes in again. They long to be at their Old Trade of making work for the Hang-man. You may pick up ſeveral of 'em in the Famous Tryals of the

Lord

Lord *Ruſſel*, *Rouſe*, Sir *Sam.Bernardiſton*, Mr.*Papillion*, *Bateman*, and thoſe Barbarous Perſecutions of Dr.*Oats* for Perjury, under the *Ipſe Dixit's* of that ſame *Tamerlane* of the Law, Chief Juſtice *Jefferies*. No leſs than Sixty of theſe are reckon'd up to be of the Number of thoſe, that ſtrove with ſuch a Slaviſh Emulation to Sacrifice their *Ancient Rights and Priviledges*, to the Imperious *Moloch*, Arbitrary Tyranny, on purpoſe to make a meer *Golgotha* of the City; and with a fawning Officiouſneſs reſign'd their own Liberty to Inſlave others. So that it is not ſo much to be admired, that ſuch Men ſhould be ſo eaſily inveagled by the Enemies of the Government, as it is to be wondered how ſuch People ſhould be admitted to the Advantages of being qualified by their Places, to promote the Diſtractions and Confuſion which better Headpieces contrive. For had not the Chief Incendiaries ſuch Tools and Inſtruments as theſe, they would be at a great Loſs. K.*James* would ſuffer none to be Rampant in his Reign, but ſuch as with open Arms embraced his Arbitrary Rule. But ſuch is the Gentleneſs of this Government, in hopes to reclaim theſe Stubborn and Reſtleſs *Jacobites*, that it admits 'em into the very Boſom of it; while they are ſo far from being mollified by ſuch an In-

dulgence, that they only croud by Head and Shoulders into Place of Action, on purpose to do Mischief. 'Tis true, they shelter themselves under a Pretence of being great Zealots for the Church of *England*, but whether it be not a Service more Grateful to the Church of *Rome* than that of *England*, to assist the recalling of King *James*, is a question they might easily themselves resolve, were they so minded. And as for their Affection to the Present Government, it was a Sign they had very Little, when all the Money that their Loan to His Majesty amounted to, was no more than Seven Thousand Pound; and a great part of that too called in again, upon the last altering of the Militia. But they are put in such Hopes of King *James*'s Return by *May-day* next, as some there are who make no Scruple to give out, and therefore that King *William*'s Voyage into *Holland* is but an Honourable Flight, that upon the Cautions of *Prudence*, these Men are tender of doing too much for King *William*, lest they should Forfeit their Reputation to their Wish'd-for Idolater. They are all Flash and Self-conceit, Passionate and Violent, where the Fondness of their Dotage Hurries them. Three dangerous Compositions to Mis-guide such Persons that

believe

believe they know more than they do; and never conſider the Fatal Inconveniencies of Future Conſequences. And from ſuch Men as theſe, what Good can be expected toward the Settling of a Government, that has been labouring above theſe Twenty Years, under the Diſlocations of Premeditated Tyranny, and rather requires the moſt Healing and Balſamick Remedies, than the pernicious Drugs of Diviſion and Faction, that only Feſter and Corrode.

There are ſome Men that always hate the Preſent, though never ſo good; always covet ſomething to come, though never ſo uncertain; and always extol and celebrate what is paſt, though never ſo Bad: Of this Humour the Subſcribers ſeem to be. But ſuch a Humour will never ſuffer the Kingdom to be at reſt; ſuch People being Tools ſtill ready at hand for thoſe to work withall, that love to ſee their Country always in a Fluctuating Condition. And thus they that ſhould bar up all Entrances againſt Sedition and Diviſion, are called in to be the Chief Perſons that ſet open the Doors for *Diſtraction* and *Commotion*.

But

But as the Subſcribers are not alone, ſo it is no hard matter to give a ſhrew'd Gueſs, who they are that both prompt and incenſe precipitate Zeal, where-ever they meet with Subjects fit to work upon. And of this Number are many that wear the Habit indeed of the Church of *England*, but who make it their chiefeſt buſineſs to promote the Intereſt of the Church of *Rome*, who by vertue of their Profeſſion, gaining an Aſcendant over the Conſciences of many People, make an ill uſe of the Confidence their Admirers have of their Evangelick Probity. Theſe Interlopers in Affairs of State, being once deluded and well inſtructed by the Canonical Politicks that ſit at the Helm of the Church-Militant, are the moſt Proper Inſtruments to cajole the Laity. Theſe are the fitteſt Men in the World to ſow Diviſion and Diſcord; becauſe that what they ſay, is thought to be derived from Scripture; and therefore the more Dangerous, becauſe *Corruptio Optimi eſt Peſſima*. Theſe are for the firſt Employers, whether Temporal or Eccleſiaſtical. So that if either have occaſion to make uſe of their Activity to promote a Faction to diſturb the Publick Peace, or to interrupt the Proceeding of the Government, preſently theſe young *Levites* go and touch their Tongues with a Coal from the Altar; and

and then like the Syrian *Ennus*, that Headed the Slaves againſt their Maſters in the *Sicilian* Servile War, who by holding a Nutſhel in his Mouth ſtufft with lighted Sulphur, breath'd out Fire at the ſame time that he ſpoke, to incenſe the *Reſolutions* of his Fellow-Captives, they ſputter out their Flaming Divinity, to kindle the Combuſtible Matter already dry'd and prepar'd to their Hands. The cauſe of many Conflagrations in State, not ſo eaſie to be quenched, when thorowly blown up. Theſe Men love K. *James*, for the Inquiſitions ſake, and the French King for the ſake of his Dragoons; and think no Government eaſie to themſelves, but ſuch a one as will permit them, with Scourges and Impriſonment, to Lord it over the Conſciences of their Brethren. Not conſidering that in K. *James*'s Reign, there were four or five Prieſts buſily every day employ'd for ſeveral Months together, in the Augmentation Office, to take an exact Accompt of All the Lands and Livings in the Kingdom. And they may be ſure thoſe Abby-Lubbers did not take all that pains for Their Advantage, had they the Wit to apprehend it. What would then have become of the Enlargement of their Juriſdiction, which now they ſo zealouſly, even to Mutiny and Faction, contend for? Unleſs it be out of an Obſtinate

*Reſo-*

*Reſolution*, to Uphold and Juſtifie that Ancient Adagy of *In nomine Domini incipit Omne Malum.* What Fair Promiſes and Engagements K. *James* has made theſe *Levitical Sticklers*, they beſt know themſelves, but certainly their ſureſt way is, to have a care how they truſt him. Moſt certain it is, that the Clergy of the Church of *England* ought to be ſupported in their Lawful Rights, and in all the Power and Dignity that belongs to them. But theſe Men are ſo eager to extend their Eccleſiaſtical Juriſdiction, that their Straining it ſo high, becomes a perfect Mark of Extravagant Ambition, obviouſly to be objected againſt, and from which the World draws Inferences no way Serviceable to the Church in General. And therefore ſince they were ſo paſſionate in their Tranſports for *Paſſive Obedience* and *Non-reſiſtance*, under an Exorbitant and Law-contemning Reign, they would do much better to practiſe their own Doctrine under a Juſt and Gentle Prince.

In a word, whoever they were that adviſed, or fram'd, or ſubſcribed this *Petition*, it appears by the ill Luck it has had, to have been a Malitious, Mutinous, and indeed Ungodly *Jacobite* Contrivance, to diſturb the Proceedings of the Parliament, the Peace of the City, and by delays, and unſeaſonable Diverſions, to diſappoint and fru-

fruſtrate an Enterprize more Glorious than the Expeditions of our Former Monarchs to reſcue *Jeruſalem*, which was only a piece of Bigotted and Superſtitious Zeal, for the Recovery of a City, which Heaven it ſelf had deſtin'd to Perpetual Deſtruction: This, a Deſign of Royal Charity and Generoſity to reſcue all *Europe* from Threatned Servitude, and propagate the Trueſt Religion now Extant in the World. For which unwary and inconſiderate Act, if the Subſcribers and their Abettors, have deſerved Hard Words, and perhaps Severer Thoughts, 'tis no more than what they have brought upon themſelves, for not duly weighing his Majeſties own Expreſſions, in his Speech to the Parliament upon the Second of *October* laſt, wherein he thus concludes,

My Lords and Gentlemen, *I look upon the Future well being of this Kingdom, to depend upon the Reſults of your Counſels and Determinations at this Time; And the Benefit will be double by the Speed of your Reſolutions; inſomuch that I hope you will agree with me in this Concluſion: That whoever goes about to obſtruct or divert your Applications to theſe Matters, preferable to all others, can neither be My Friend nor the Kingdoms.*

The laſt thing to be conſidered is, What Perſons they are who are complained againſt. And here we are to obſerve, that the Subſcribers

chiefeſt Eye-ſore, is the Preſent Lord Mayor: He is not for their Turn, and therefore they would have him removed. He will not act for K. *James*'s Intereſt, as they do, and therefore they would have a more Supple Gentleman that will. They knew full well, with what Conſtancy and Courage He formerly withſtood the Torrent of the late Arbitrary Violences offered to the City, till by their Aſſiſtance it grew ſo Impetuous, that it bore down all the Mounds of Law and Juſtice before it. They knew that for his thus aſſerting the Ancient Franchiſes of the City, he became the Object of the Duke of *York*'s Fury, who becauſe he could not faſten any Pretence upon Him to take away his Life, reſolved to make it as Miſerable as he could, and to have crumbled him at length to pieces by the weight of a *Scandalum Magnatum*, under the Management of a Swaggering Judge, a Pack'd Jury, and Prompted Teſtimonies; nor could ever any Atonement be made, of his High Diſpleaſure againſt a Perſon that had ſtood up for the Rights and Liberties of the City, as Sheriff *Pilkington* did, and refuſed to pack a Jury to take away the Life of the Earl of *Shaftsbury*. They knew him to be one of thoſe who thus deeply ſuffer'd at a time, when ſomething in the Shape of Juſtice Hector'd, Whip'd, Impriſon'd, Hung, Drew and Quarter'd, and Beheaded

headed all that came near her, that had incurr'd the Popiſh Succeſſor's Wrath. And therefore, as if they ſtill were of opinion that thoſe things are ſtill Crimes, which were Criminal at that time, the Old Grudges are wak'd from a long Sleep, (nay, whether they were ever aſleep or no is the Queſtion) and ſuch an Enemy to the D. of *York*, and conſequently K. *James*, muſt be laid aſide, and Sacrificed to a ſecond Revenge of Former Indignation. For ſince there is nothing elſe Alledged againſt him, but what is only Impertinence and Calumny, it is ſhrewdly to be *innuendo'd*, that the Subſcribers Hatred againſt him is of an old Date.

His Conformity to the Church of *England* is ſo apparent to the World, that the Fort was not to be taken by any Batteries that were to be made on that ſide. His Loyalty to a Prince that has *ſpared neither his Perſon nor his Pains, to the Kingdoms Good*; that has prefer'd the Satisfaction of his Subjects before the moſt Solid Advantages of his Crown; his Loyalty to this true Engliſh Prince is ſo unſhaken, they could not ſtir it. Therefore he muſt be attack'd with ſpecious Pretences, and plauſible Inſinuations of irregularly Adminiſtring the Affairs of the City. And in order to this they raiſe Quarrels and Differences among themſelves, *de Lana Caprina*, Scruple the Legality of the *Lord Mayor's Election*, when

when the Scrutiny was wav'd by the Perſons that demanded it, and that they declar'd their Satisfaction in the Choice, challenge to themſelves Authorities which never appertained to their Juriſdiction, and bring a Charge of Infringement of their Priviledges upon Falſe and Slender Allegations, to Peſter and Intangle the Juſtice of the Lord Mayor, and involve the Court of Aldermen in the Broil, on purpoſe to create an occaſion of Undue and Unjuſt Complaint, while the Irregular Returns of Common-Council-Men in the Wards of *Alderſgate* and *Dowgate* are cunningly laid as Foundations for the Mutiny. And then to involve the Parliament in their Litigious and Groundleſs Contentions, they muſt be Petition'd to Explain their *Act*, by Perſons out of Common-Council, when it was oppoſed as Unneceſſary and Troubleſome in the Aſſembly it ſelf in a Body together. And all this not much unlike the Hubbubs which ſome People raiſe in the Streets, that they may have an Opportunity to Deprive Honeſt Men of what they carry about them. But as Envy acquir'd by well-doing, begets Eſteem and Reputation, ſo it redounds to the Honour of the *Lord Mayor*, that none were ſo great Enemies to the Conſul *Cicero*, as they that were engaged in the Conſpiracy of *Catiline*.

*F I N I S.*

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